

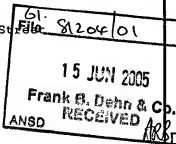
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
FRANK B. DEHN & CO.
179 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4EL
UNITED KINGDOM

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION



(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) **13. 06. 2005**

Applicant's or agent's file reference
61. 81204/001

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002706

International filing date
(day/month/year) **24/06/2004**

Applicant
ISIS INNOVATION LIMITED

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.
3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:
- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
 - ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Stefan Brell

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 61. 81204/001	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB2004/002706	International filing date (day/month/year) 24/06/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 24/06/2003
Applicant ISIS INNOVATION LIMITED		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 7 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).



With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.



Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).



Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____



as suggested by the applicant.



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.



none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/GB2004/002706A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C07H5/10 C12N9/56 C12N9/44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C07H C12N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BEILSTEIN Data, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE CAPLUS CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE, COLUMBUS, OHIO, US; XP002300619 retrieved from STN Database accession no. AN: 1955:53561 DN:49:53561, OREF:49:103061,10307a-e abstract	1-3,5,7, 15,16
Y	& YAMADA ET AL.: "Synthesis of thiamine alkyl disulfides" YAKUGAKU ZASSHI, no. 74, 1954, pages 963-966, ----- -/-	1-5,7-9, 11-13, 15-17

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in an annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the International filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 May 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

13. 06. 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Steendijk, M

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FIELD ET AL.: "Biologically orientated..." J.ORG.CHEM., vol. 36, no. 2, 1971, pages 309-313, XP002300617	1-3,7, 15,16
Y	page 309	1-5,7-9, 11-13, 15-17
X	----- RAJCA A ET AL: "NEW MIXED DISULFIDES OF L-CYSTEINE DERIVATIVES AND OF GLUTATHIONE WITH DIETHYLDITHIOCARBAMIC ACID AND 2-MERCAPTOETHANESULFONIC ACID" ARZNEIMITTEL FORSCHUNG. DRUG RESEARCH, EDITIO CANTOR. AULENDORF, DE, vol. 40, no. 3, 1990, pages 282-286, XP000882932 ISSN: 0004-4172	1,5,7,15
Y	page 284	1-5,7-9, 11-13, 15-17
X	----- RAJCA A ET AL: "SYNTHESIS OF UNSYMMETRICAL DISULFIDES WITH THIOLSULFONATES IMMOBILISED ON A POLYSTYRENE SUPPORT" TETRAHEDRON LETTERS, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 31, no. 42, 1990, pages 6075-6076, XP000653113 ISSN: 0040-4039	1-3,7, 15,16
Y	the whole document	1-5,7-9, 11-13, 15-17
Y	----- WO 00/01712 A (GENENCOR INT) 13 January 2000 (2000-01-13) page 6	1-5,7-9, 11-13, 15-17
X	----- JOHNSTON B D ET AL: "Synthesis of thio-linked disaccharides by 1-->2 intramolecular thioglycosyl migration: oxacarbenium versus episulfonium ion intermediates." THE JOURNAL OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY. 28 JUL 2000, vol. 65, no. 15, 28 July 2000 (2000-07-28), pages 4607-4617, XP002328859 ISSN: 0022-3263 page 4611; compound 34	8-10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International Application No
 PCT/GB2004/002706

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>REICH H J ET AL: "ORGANOSELENIUM CHEMISTRY ALKYLATION OF ACID ESTER AMIDE AND KETONE ENOLATES WITH BROMOMETHYL BENZYL SELENIDE AND SULFIDE PREPARATION OF SELENOCYSTEINE DERIVATIVES" JOURNAL OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY, vol. 51, no. 15, 1986, pages 2981-2988, XP002328860 ISSN: 0022-3263 p. 5551, scheme II</p>	1,6,15
P,X	<p>GAMBLIN DAVID P ET AL: "Glycosyl phenylthiosulfonates (glyco-PTS): novel reagents for glycoprotein synthesis." ORGANIC & BIOMOLECULAR CHEMISTRY. 7 NOV 2003, vol. 1, no. 21, 7 November 2003 (2003-11-07), pages 3642-3644, XP002300618 ISSN: 1477-0520 the whole document</p>	1-5,7-9, 11-13, 15-17
P,X	<p>GAMBLIN DAVID P ET AL: "Glyco-SeS: selenenylsulfide-mediated protein glycoconjugation—a new strategy in post-translational modification." ANGEWANDTE CHEMIE (INTERNATIONAL ED. IN ENGLISH) 6 FEB 2004, vol. 43, no. 7, 6 February 2004 (2004-02-06), pages 828-833, XP002328861 ISSN: 0570-0833 the whole document</p>	1-6, 8-10, 14-29

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002706**Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/002706

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0001712	A	13-01-2000	AU 749383 B2	27-06-2002
			AU 5208199 A	24-01-2000
			CA 2331783 A1	13-01-2000
			EP 1093459 A2	25-04-2001
			JP 2002519050 T	02-07-2002
			US 2002146803 A1	10-10-2002
			WO 0001712 A2	13-01-2000
			US 2001018200 A1	30-08-2001

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002706

International filing date (day/month/year)
24.06.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
24.06.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
C07H5/10, C12N9/56, C12N9/44

Applicant
ISIS INNOVATION LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
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Authorized Officer

Steendijk, M

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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002706

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.10)
and /or
2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.9)
see form 210

- 1) The present application relates to methods and reagents for disulfide bond formation, in particular for glycosylating proteins using thiosulfonates which are not alkylthiosulfonates or selenylsulfides.
- 2) Cited documents:
 - D1: CAPLUS AN: 1955:53561
 - D2: J.ORG.CHEM., vol. 36, no. 2, 1971, pages 309-313,
 - D3: ARZN.FORSCH./DRUG RES., vol. 40, no. 3, 1990, pages 282-286
 - D4: TET. LETT., vol. 31, no. 42, 1990, pages 6075-6076,
 - D5: WO 00/01712 A
 - D6: J.ORG.CHEM., 2000, vol. 65, no. 15, pages 4607-4617
 - D7: J.ORG.CHEM., vol. 51, no. 15, 1986, pages 2981-2988,
 - D8: ORG.BIOMOL.CHEM., vol. 1, no. 21, (2003-11-07), pages 3642-3644
 - D9: ANG.CHEMIE (INT.), vol. 43, no. 7, (2004-02-06), pages 828-833.

The priority of 24.6.03 seems valid for claims 1-17 and the priority of 12.12.03 seems valid for claims 18-29. Accordingly, D8 is only prior art with respect to claims 18-29, whereas D9 is not considered as prior art.

- 3) Novelty
- 3.1 Documents D1-D4 describe various thiosulfonates, including phenylthiosulfonates, for forming disulfide bonds with thiol-group comprising compounds, including aminoacid derivatives. In view of D1-D4 the subject-matter of claims 1-3,5,7,15 and 16 cannot be considered new.

These documents do not specifically describe the carbohydrate derivatives defined in claims 8-9,11-13 and 17 nor selenosulfide related compounds/reactions.

Document D6 describes a selenosulfide according to claims 8-10; this document does not, describe its application for preparing disulfide compounds nor its preparation as defined in present claim 14.

Document D7 describes the reaction of a selenosulfide with a thiol producing a disulfide, which is considered to anticipate the subject-matter of claims 1, 6 and 15.

- 3.2 Document D5 describes alkylthiosulfonates for forming disulfide bonds, in particular for glycosylating proteins, which is excluded from the present application.

Document D8 (only prior art for claims 18-29) describes the use of phenylthiosulfonates for preparing disulfide compounds without mention of selenosulfide compounds.

Document D9 describes selenosulfides in preparing disulfide compounds; this document is however not considered as prior art.

4) Inventive step

With respect to the new subject-matter document D5 may be considered as closest prior art. The problem to be solved may be seen in the provision of alternative agents for introducing disulfide linked groups, in particular carbohydrate-moieties. As solution the claimed matter would at present seem obvious to the person skilled in the art in view of D1-D4 (for thiosulfonates) and D7 (for selenosulfides) as these documents already describe various other thiosulfonates and selenosulfides as convenient reagents for the introduction of disulfide linked moieties.

With respect to claim 14 it is noted that document D6 may be considered as closest prior art. The alternative method for preparing this compound seems to reflect basic chemistry and would therefor prima facie not seem to involve an inventive step.

- 5) No unifying common distinguishing feature with respect to document D5, relating to related preparative methods, is evident between the subject-matter involving thiosulfonates on the one hand and selenosulfides on the other hand is evident. Furthermore, no common distinguishing feature with respect to D6 is evident amongst new selenosulfides and their application on the one hand and new methods for preparing (partly) known selenosulfides (claim 14) on the other hand.